

What is claimed is:

1. An isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:
 - a) a mature form of the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2n, wherein n is an integer between 1 and 178;
 - b) a variant of a mature form of the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2n, wherein n is an integer between 1 and 178, wherein any amino acid in the mature form is changed to a different amino acid, provided that no more than 15% of the amino acid residues in the sequence of the mature form are so changed;
 - c) the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2n, wherein n is an integer between 1 and 178;
 - d) a variant of the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2n, wherein n is an integer between 1 and 178 wherein any amino acid specified in the chosen sequence is changed to a different amino acid, provided that no more than 15% of the amino acid residues in the sequence are so changed; and
 - e) a fragment of any of a) through d).
2. The polypeptide of claim 1 that is a naturally occurring allelic variant of the sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2n, wherein n is an integer between 1 and 178.
3. The polypeptide of claim 2, wherein said allelic variant comprises an amino acid sequence that is the translation of a nucleic acid sequence differing by a single nucleotide from a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2n, wherein n is an integer between 1 and 178.
4. The polypeptide of claim 1 that is a variant polypeptide described therein, wherein any amino acid specified in the chosen sequence is changed to provide a conservative substitution.

5. A method for determining the presence or amount of the polypeptide of claim 1 in a sample, the method comprising:

- (a) providing said sample;
- (b) introducing said sample to an antibody that binds immunospecifically to the polypeptide; and
- (c) determining the presence or amount of antibody bound to said polypeptide, thereby determining the presence or amount of polypeptide in said sample.

6. A method for determining the presence of or predisposition to a disease associated with altered levels of the polypeptide of claim 1 in a first mammalian subject, the method comprising:

- a) measuring the level of expression of the polypeptide in a sample from the first mammalian subject; and
- b) comparing the amount of said polypeptide in the sample of step (a) to the amount of the polypeptide present in a control sample from a second mammalian subject known not to have, or not to be predisposed to, said disease.

wherein an alteration in the expression level of the polypeptide in the first subject as compared to the control sample indicates the presence of or predisposition to said disease.

7. A method of identifying an agent that binds to the polypeptide of claim 1, the method comprising:

- (a) introducing said polypeptide to said agent; and
- (b) determining whether said agent binds to said polypeptide.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein the agent is a cellular receptor or a downstream effector.

9. A method for identifying a potential therapeutic agent for use in treatment of a pathology, wherein the pathology is related to aberrant expression or aberrant physiological interactions of the polypeptide of claim 1, the method comprising:

- (a) providing a cell expressing the polypeptide of claim 1 and having a property or function ascribable to the polypeptide;

- (b) contacting the cell with a composition comprising a candidate substance;
and
- (c) determining whether the substance alters the property or function ascribable to the polypeptide;

whereby, if an alteration observed in the presence of the substance is not observed when the cell is contacted with a composition devoid of the substance, the substance is identified as a potential therapeutic agent.

10. A method for screening for a modulator of activity or of latency or predisposition to a pathology associated with the polypeptide of claim 1, said method comprising:

- a) administering a test compound to a test animal at increased risk for a pathology associated with the polypeptide of claim 1, wherein said test animal recombinantly expresses the polypeptide of claim 1;
- b) measuring the activity of said polypeptide in said test animal after administering the compound of step (a); and
- c) comparing the activity of said protein in said test animal with the activity of said polypeptide in a control animal not administered said polypeptide, wherein a change in the activity of said polypeptide in said test animal relative to said control animal indicates the test compound is a modulator of latency of, or predisposition to, a pathology associated with the polypeptide of claim 1.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein said test animal is a recombinant test animal that expresses a test protein transgene or expresses said transgene under the control of a promoter at an increased level relative to a wild-type test animal, and wherein said promoter is not the native gene promoter of said transgene.

12. A method for modulating the activity of the polypeptide of claim 1, the method comprising introducing a cell sample expressing the polypeptide of said claim with a compound that binds to said polypeptide in an amount sufficient to modulate the activity of the polypeptide.

13. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:
- a) a mature form of the amino acid sequence given SEQ ID NO: 2n, wherein n is an integer between 1 and 178;
 - b) a variant of a mature form of the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2n, wherein n is an integer between 1 and 178 wherein any amino acid in the mature form of the chosen sequence is changed to a different amino acid, provided that no more than 15% of the amino acid residues in the sequence of the mature form are so changed;
 - c) the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2n, wherein n is an integer between 1 and 178;
 - d) a variant of the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2n, wherein n is an integer between 1 and 178, in which any amino acid specified in the chosen sequence is changed to a different amino acid, provided that no more than 15% of the amino acid residues in the sequence are so changed;
 - e) a nucleic acid fragment encoding at least a portion of a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2n, wherein n is an integer between 1 and 178 or any variant of said polypeptide wherein any amino acid of the chosen sequence is changed to a different amino acid, provided that no more than 10% of the amino acid residues in the sequence are so changed; and
 - f) the complement of any of said nucleic acid molecules.
14. The nucleic acid molecule of claim 13, wherein the nucleic acid molecule comprises the nucleotide sequence of a naturally occurring allelic nucleic acid variant.
15. The nucleic acid molecule of claim 13 that encodes a variant polypeptide, wherein the variant polypeptide has the polypeptide sequence of a naturally occurring polypeptide variant.
16. The nucleic acid molecule of claim 13, wherein the nucleic acid molecule differs by a single nucleotide from a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2n-1, wherein n is an integer between 1 and 178.

- a) the nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2n-1, wherein n is an integer between 1 and 178;
- b) a nucleotide sequence wherein one or more nucleotides in the nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2n-1, wherein n is an integer between 1 and 178 is changed from that selected from the group consisting of the chosen sequence to a different nucleotide provided that no more than 15% of the nucleotides are so changed;
- c) a nucleic acid fragment of the sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2n-1, wherein n is an integer between 1 and 178; and
- d) a nucleic acid fragment wherein one or more nucleotides in the nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2n-1, wherein n is an integer between 1 and 178 is changed from that selected from the group consisting of the chosen sequence to a different nucleotide provided that no more than 15% of the nucleotides are so changed.

18. The nucleic acid molecule of claim 13, wherein said nucleic acid molecule hybridizes under stringent conditions to the nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2n-1, wherein n is an integer between 1 and 178, or a complement of said nucleotide sequence.

19. The nucleic acid molecule of claim 13, wherein the sequence is changed such that no more than 15% of the nucleotides in the coding sequence differ from the nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2n-1, wherein n is an integer between 1 and 178 or a fragment thereof.

20. A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 19.

21. The vector of claim 20, further comprising a promoter operably linked to said nucleic acid molecule.

22. A cell comprising the vector of claim 20.

